


Chapter 4

HOW TO INTERPRET THE HANDBOOK

Each perforated insignia which is distinctly different is listed and illustrated separately. For insignia which are similar or changed somewhat due to re-tooling of the dies, the insignia are deemed to be different. To avoid confusion, damaged dies, which appear to be something that they are not, are illustrated and identified as to their origin.

Every perforated insignia is presented in the following manner with the noted information.

PERFIN NUMBER	CONTACT PHOTOGRAPH	LOCATION	USER'S IDENTIFICATION	EARLIEST POSTMARK	POSTOFFICE APPROVAL
N10		NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE CO.	VANCOUVER BC NLY See Addendum A. Listed in US as New York NY	1952/05/30 1956/01/16	1912/04/25 CA US
E					
PERFIN FACTOR INITIALS OF THE PERFORATOR ADDENDA & NOTES CATALOGUE NUMBERS POSITIONS					
271-5. 284-1,5. 286-1,3,5. 288-5. 301-4,8. 303-1,3,5. 304-1,5. 305-1. 306-1,3,4,5,6,8. 313-1. 316-2,4. 317-1. 320-2,4,6,8. 322-4. 323-2. 324-. 325-2. 326-4,6. 327-2,8. 328-2,4,6,8. 335-2,4,6. 336-2,4,8. 337-4. 338-1,2,6,8. 339-. 340-2,4,6,8. 341-2,4,5,6,8. 349-2,4,6,8. 350-2,6. 351-8. 352-2,6,8. 353-6. 354-5. 356-. 357-2. 358-. 360-2,4,6. 361-6. E11-.					
COUNTRY LATEST POSTMARK					

PERFIN NUMBER is the number allocated to each respective perforated insignia. Where there is a '-', the insignia is not what it appears to be and there is a reference to its origin where the user's name usually appears.

The perfin image in most cases was made by a **CONTACT PHOTOGRAPH** of one of the dies of the perforating machine. Keep in mind that most perforators had multiple dies, which were not identical, so hole alignment may not be exact. In other words, the **CONTACT PHOTOGRAPHY** is only a representation of the actual perfin die, and will not match, exactly, all perfin dies of the perfin number. The editors have attempted to maintain the correct image size when creating the PDF file. Various aspects of both the viewer's software and hardware in printing the PDF image may result in changes in the image size. Most perfins have the insignia in Position 1 that allows superimposition from the back, underside, of the stamp so that the colour and design of the stamp do not interfere with identification.

LOCATION is the city where the perforator was located while used by the company. In the case of a perforator being used in two or more cities, the cities are listed in chronological order of usage.

USER'S IDENTIFICATION is the name of the company that purchased the perforator. In most cases, it will also be the name of the company that operated the perforator. In the case of a company having more than one name (other than a takeover), the most recognized name is used. Attempts have been made to confirm the spelling of the names. Where no company name is listed, the owner/user remains unknown.

EARLIEST POSTMARK is a review of the known usage of the perfin by the BNAPS Study Group. Changes in some of the dates are to be expected over a period of time, but it does indicate confirmed years that a perfin has been used. Dates read: year/month/day.

POST OFFICE APPROVAL is the date on which the Post Office approved the use of a particular insignia, as shown in Addendum A. Where the company had one insignia approved it is deemed that the approval applied to all similar and/or later insignia so there is a referral to the approved insignia. Where no approval was given the space is blank. In the case where a perforator was located outside Canada and did not perforate Canadian postage stamps, a N/A (not applicable) confirms that Post Office approval was not required for Canadian revenue stamps that were perforated. For Newfoundland postage stamps, the Canadian approval regulations did not apply, as Newfoundland was not a member of Confederation at the time of perforating, thus the N/A. Dates read: year/month/day.

PERFIN FACTOR is an attempt to indicate the relative number of stamps reported with each insignia in the Study Group surveys and to provide a comparison for the collections reviewed. Below are the actual reported copies as of 1984. In 2011, the A, B and C factors remain actual count. The remaining factors will have higher actual counts but remain in proportion to each other. The factors including both postage and revenue stamps are as follows:

- A 1-3 reported copies
- B 4-10 reported copies
- C 11-30 reported copies
- D 31-100 reported copies
- E 101-300 reported copies
- F 301-1,000 reported copies
- G 1,001-3,000 reported copies
- H 3,001-10,000 reported copies
- I 10,001 and more reported copies

COUNTRY or countries where insignia found is an identification of the countries whose stamps have also been perforated with the same perforator. The United States (US) is the most frequent, but Newfoundland (NL), England (GB), Australia (AU), Trinidad & Tobago (TT) and Ireland (IE) are also listed. Note: all the Australia perforations are in Custom Duty (revenue) stamps, not postage stamps and were from an American perforator.

INITIALS OF THE PERFORATOR is the sequence of letters in the insignia. There are a number of symbols to help in describing perfin patterns.

/, as in **AR/ & Co** – everything after the / is on a line below.

-, as in **M-W/A** – shows a dash or marked space.

(), as in **BC/C(o)** – the letter or letters inside the parentheses are enclosed within the letter preceding.

[], as in **[AC/o]** – all letters with the brackets share some pins with some or all the other letters within the brackets.

Lower case letter, as in **AR/ & Co** – letters shown as lower case in the listing are also lower case in the actual perfin.

., periods like **W.J.G** have been included in the initials.

<>, as in **<P>P/Co**, the letter(s) within the <> is reversed.

Note: code holes, as in **NLY**, have not been included in the initials.

LATEST POSTMARK is a review of the known usage of the perfin by the BNAPS Study Group. Changes in some of the dates are to be expected over a period of time, but it does indicate confirmed years that a perfin has been used. Dates read: year/month/day.

ADDENDA & NOTES is a notice that this insignia is referred to in addendum, and each reference is so noted as is anything considered significant enough to need special attention, subject to space required for the explanation.

CATALOGUE NUMBERS is a checklist of all stamp issues and reported for each perfin as dated on top of the page. The original list was prepared by Conrad Tremblay and recorded the perfin positions, for that information contact the BNAPS Perfin study group. The list has been added to as new stamps have been reported and stamp numbers have been changed to reflect the current 2015 catalogue stamp numbers. The stamps are listed in the following order using these catalogues:

Unitrade Specialized Catalogue 2015, style: 104, C1 or MR1

The Canadian Revenue Stamp Catalogue 2009 edition by E. S. J. van Dam, style: FX64 or NFC1

The Standard Canada Precancel Catalogue 5th Edition. The precancel number is composed of the Town Name or Bar, Style number (1 to 15) and the Scott Stamp Number [Hamilton 4-105]. The Town Name (Hamilton) is only shown on the first precancel number (Hamilton 4-105, 4-107) and not repeated on subsequent precancel numbers if there is no change in the Town Name. Capital "I" means inverted, capital "D" stands for double and capital "T" means triple. For a complete list of the precancel number system, see in "The Standard Canada Precancel Catalogue 5th Edition book.

Note: where the perfin is from Newfoundland, Unitrade Specialized catalogue (Newfoundland numbers are used without identification. Where a Newfoundland perforation is reported in a Canadian stamp, a NL is added prior to the Canadian stamp number.

POSITIONS are described in Addendum C DETERMINING A PERFIN POSITION.